AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing an agglutination reagent for detecting typhoid comprising:

(a) preparing ~~an antibody~~ a plurality of antibodies specific to a Flagellin gene of *Salmonella* typhi;

(b) preparing a latex particle suspension; and

(c) coating a plurality of latex ~~particle~~ particles with said antibody specific to said Flagellin gene of *Salmonella* typhi;

wherein said antibody specific to the Flagellin gene of *Salmonella* typhi is prepared according to a method comprising:

(i) raising a hyper immune sera against a purified protein encoded by a Flagellin gene specific to *Salmonella* typhi, and

(ii) separating said antibody specific to the Flagellin gene of *Salmonella* typhi from said hyper immune sera;

wherein said latex particle suspension is prepared according to a method consisting essentially of:

(i) mixing 1% carboxylated latex particles and a 40 mM 2-N morpholinoethane sulphonic acid (MES) buffer of pH 5.5 to 6.5 in a ratio of 1:1, washing with a 20 mM MES buffer of pH 5.5 thereby forming a plurality of washed latex ~~particle~~particles, and

(ii) adding a 1-ethyl-3 (3-dimethyl-amino propyl) carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) in a 20 mM MES buffer of pH 5.5 to said plurality of washed latex ~~particle~~ particles in a ratio of 1:1 , washing with a 20 mM MES buffer (pH 5.5); and

wherein said plurality of latex ~~particle is~~particles are coated according to a method consisting essentially of:

(i) reacting said plurality of antibodies ~~antibody~~ specific to the Flagellin gene of *Salmonella* typhi with said plurality of washed latex ~~particle~~ particles thereby forming a plurality of ~~an antibody specific to the Flagellin gene of Salmonella typhi~~ coated latex ~~particle~~particles,

(ii) stopping the reacting step (i) by adding 1M glycine (pH 11.0) , and

(iii) washing said ~~antibody specific to the Flagellin gene of *Salmonella* typhi~~ plurality of coated latex ~~particle~~ particles with a washing buffer consisting essentially of 50 mM glycine, pH 8.5; 0.03% surfactant and 0.05% sodium azide.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An agglutination reagent for rapid and early detection of typhoid, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a plurality of carboxylated latex ~~particle~~ particles suspended in a storage buffer, wherein the carboxylated latex particles consist ~~particle coated consists~~ essentially of an antibody specific to a Flagellin gene.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The agglutination reagent as claimed in claim 24, wherein the size of the said latex particles is 0.88 to 0.90 μm.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The agglutination reagent as claimed in claim 24, wherein the said storage buffer is comprised of 50 mM glycine pH 8.5, 1.0% bovine serum albumin, 0.03% surfactant, 0.1% sodium azide and 0.01% thimerosal.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The agglutination reagent for rapid and early detection of typhoid as claimed in claim 24, wherein said antibody is an immunoglobulin fraction of a hyper immune sera raised against a protein encoded by a Flagellin gene specific to *Salmonella* typhi, and wherein said storage buffer is a 50 mM phosphate buffer.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): A kit for rapid and early detection of typhoid comprising 1% agglutination reagent as claimed in claim 24 suspended in storage buffer, glass slides, droppers, wooden sticks and positive and negative controls.